



Department of Energy
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

NOV 04 1998

Jonathan M. Weisgail, Esquire
2101 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Mr. Weisgail:

Thank you for your October 5, 1998, letter to R. Thomas Bell on behalf of the people of Bikini and the Republic of the Marshall Islands Government (RMI) regarding document retrieval and declassification priorities.

Our proposed work plan for the 10 RMI priorities, including a summary of our progress to date, is provided in enclosure 1. In addition, the work plan for the four Department of Energy (DOE) record search initiatives for fiscal year 1999 as discussed in the DOE letter of August 25, 1998, to Minister Phillip Muller is provided in enclosure 2. Both are provided for consideration of the Joint Communique Working Group on Document Retrieval and Declassification. As a next step, we recommend that the working group meet to discuss the proposed actions.

We appreciate your efforts to provide the prioritized list and look forward to working with you, the Kili/Bikini/Ejit, Enewetak/Ujelang, Rongelap, and Utirik Local Atoll Government Councils, and the RMI in moving ahead on these recommended document retrieval initiatives.

Sincerely,

Frank Hawkins
Director
Office of International
Health Programs

2 Enclosures

cc w/enclosures

Banny de Brum, RMI Embassy - U.S.

Phillip Muller, Minister of Foreign
Affairs and Trade

Oscar deBrum, Nuclear Claims Tribunal

Tomaki Juda, Kili/Bikini/Ejit Local
Government Council

Davor Pevec, Esq.

Howard Hills, Esq.

John Masek, Esq.

Esther Kia'aina, Office of Senator Akaka



PROPOSED WORK PLAN ON THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (RMI)/BIKINI PRIORITIZED LIST DOCUMENT RETRIEVAL AND DECLASSIFICATION

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- Priority 1** Original transcripts of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) meetings 1954-1957 (College Park, National Archives Collection NN3-326-93-005)
- Status/Action:** In Process The Department of Energy (DOE) has completed the research on these transcripts. Classified documents/pages found at the National Archives Record Administration (NARA) College Park in December 1997, have been submitted to the DOE Office of Declassification at NARA. The Office of International Health Programs (EH-63) does not control this declassification process. Once returned to EH-63, the classified portions identified will be deleted and the documents released to the public.
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- Priority 2** Completion Reports for Operations Greenhouse, Ivy Castle, Redwing and Hardtack 3 (CIC, Las Vegas)
- Status/Action:** Complete These completion reports were declassified in the spring of 1998 and were made available to the RMI in box 63 provided to RMI in July 1998. These documents will be available on EH-63's web site (<http://tis-nr.en.doe.gov/ihp>) by January 1999.
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- Priority 3** AEC documents at NARA - Atlanta (Medical Central Files 4NN-326-8505)
- Status/Action:** Complete DOE has turned over custody of these DOE documents to NARA, which is an unclassified archive. They are now available for public and RMI review. DOE has provided RMI the finding aids to 4 record collections in Atlanta totaling approximately 200 feet of records to assist in this RMI search effort. The point of contact at NARA-Atlanta is Mr. Charles Reeves (404-763-7065).
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- Priority 4** LANL Project Y, J Division central files and Director's Office files (Collections A-84-019, A-91-048, and B-9)
- Status/Action:** DOE Action to be completed in fiscal year (FY) 2000 DOE searched the most promising record collections at LANL during 1997 and early 1998. Documents retrieved are currently under declassification review by the DOE LANL Office of Declassification and some have recently been prepared for public release. Further review of other possible record collections will be conducted by DOE to ensure that the record search is complete.
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Priority 5	<u>Lewis Strauss Collection (Collection 1349)</u>
Status/Action:	<u>DOE Action to be completed in FY 1999</u> This unclassified collection is located in DOE's History Division in Germantown, MD. It is about 3 cubic feet of documents and can be searched by the public and RMI as desired. DOE will search this collection and release unclassified documents. ¹
Priority 6	<u>Lewis Strauss working files (Collection 1103) which contain mostly notations from Strauss's appointment calendar and telephone logs.</u>
Status/Action:	<u>DOE Action to be completed in FY 1999</u> This collection is located in DOE's History Division in Germantown, MD. Much of this collection is unclassified and available for RMI review. DOE will search this collection and release unclassified or formerly declassified documents. ¹ Classified documents found will be presented to the DOE Office of Declassification for their action.
Priority 7	<u>Gordon Dunning files (Collection 1339) regarding potential effects of nuclear testing on Downwinders</u>
Status/Action:	<u>DOE Action to be completed in FY 1999</u> This 1 cubic foot unclassified collection is located in DOE's History Division in Germantown, MD. The collection is unclassified and is available for RMI review. DOE will search this collection and release unclassified or formerly declassified documents. ¹
Priority 8	<u>Conrad-Ogle Materials (Collection 1387)</u>
Status/Action:	<u>DOE Action to be completed in FY 1999</u> This 2 cubic foot collection is located in DOE's History Division in Germantown, MD. DOE will search this collection and release unclassified or formerly declassified documents. ¹ Classified documents found will be presented to the DOE Office of Declassification for their action.

The basis for this search will be the "Scope of Document Search for the Marshall Islands Government" developed jointly by RMI and DOE and discussed at the March 19, 1998, Document Retrieval and Declassification Working Group Meeting.

Priority 9 AEC Secretarial 1958-1966 files (Collection 20)

Status/Action: Completed. This collection is located in DOE's History Division in Germantown, MD. This collection contains AEC Secretariat files, including staff papers, meeting minutes, and miscellaneous correspondence and reports. It was searched during late 1997 and pertinent unclassified documents found related to the Marshall Islands were provided to the RMI in July 1998, in Box 61. Some classified documents found are still under declassification review by the DOE Declassification Office. The documents in Box 61 will be available on EH-63's web site (<http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/ihp>) by January 1999.

Priority 10 Joint Committee on Atomic Energy (JCAE) hearings (Collection 1172)

Status/Action: DOE Action to be completed in FY 1999. This 15 cubic feet collection is located in DOE's History Division in Germantown, MD. DOE will search this collection and release unclassified or formerly declassified documents. Classified documents found will be presented to the DOE Office of Declassification for their action.

The basis for this search will be the "Scope of Document Search for the Marshall Islands Government" developed jointly by RMI and DOE and discussed at the March 19, 1998, Document Retrieval and Declassification Working Group Meeting.

PROPOSED WORK PLAN ON THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S (DOE) RECORD SEARCH EFFORT DOCUMENT RETRIEVAL AND DECLASSIFICATION¹

Priority 1	<u>The 1974 - 1975 Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Secretary's Files, Collection 9</u>
Status/Action:	<u>DOE Action to be completed in fiscal year (FY) 1999</u> This collection will be searched for documents which meet the "Scope of Document Search for Marshall Islands Government" established by DOE and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and discussed at the March 19, 1998, meeting.
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Priority 2	<u>The 1961-1975 AEC Minutes, Collection 10</u>
Status/Action:	<u>DOE Action to be completed in FY 1999</u> This collection will be searched for documents which meet the "Scope of Document Search for Marshall Islands Government" established by DOE and RMI and discussed at the March 19, 1998, meeting.
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Priority 3	<u>The Classified Sections of the Tommy McCraw Collection 1324</u>
Status/Action:	<u>DOE Action to be completed in FY 1999</u> This collection will be searched for documents which meet the "Scope of Document Search for Marshall Islands Government" established by DOE and RMI and discussed at the March 19, 1998, meeting.
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Priority 4	<u>BER Radiation Exposure Collection 326-78-3</u>
Status/Action:	<u>DOE Action to be completed in FY 1999</u> This collection will be searched for documents which meet the "Scope of Document Search for Marshall Islands Government" established by DOE and RMI and discussed at the March 19, 1998, meeting.

¹ These planned searches represent the final DOE response to document requests in the February 14, 1994, letter from Thomas D. Kijiner, Minister of Foreign Affairs, RMI. These FY 1999 initiatives were discussed in the DOE letter of August 25, 1998, to Phillip Muller, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.